

custody of the United States should be treated. This country has signed the Geneva Conventions and in 1994 ratified the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, which prohibits such treatment under all circumstances including "a state of war." According to David Cole, the legal affairs correspondent of The Nation, the Bush Administration argued that the ban does not apply to foreign national being held and interrogated abroad. According to Mr. Cole, this interpretation runs against the central purpose of the Torture Convention, which is to protect all human beings, regardless of location and nationality.

Because of the Bush Administration and its abuse of power, we must, for the first time in our history, ban torture. And for the first time in our history, we have a President who is threatening to veto the ban and further shame us all.

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HONORING JOSEPH P. LOFTUS

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 9, 2005*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the important contributions of Joseph P. Loftus Jr. who lived in San Antonio, Texas and passed away recently on September 4th, 2005.

Mr. Speaker, Joe Loftus Jr. was a fine American citizen who served in the aviation and space activities division of government for 47 years. He wasn't always in the spot light, but he was behind the scenes on the Mercury capsules and the Apollo lunar missions. Because of his efforts, NASA created the Orbital Debris Program Office. He had an international reputation for his expertise on orbital debris research and he was awarded NASA's Exceptional Service Metal twice and upon his death, the Distinguished Service Metal. When Mr. Loftus retired, NASA lost a smart, dedicated employee whose talents were in many fields. Eric Hoffer, an American author once wrote, "Our passionate preoccupation with the sky, the stars, and God somewhere in outer space is a homing impulse. We are drawn back to where we came from" Joe Loftus Jr. has returned to where he came from and he will be greatly missed.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for the time to address the House on this somber but momentous occasion.

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HONORING DR. DENZIL L. DOUGLAS

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 9, 2005*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, this coming weekend, between November 10 and 13 I and more than twenty of our colleagues in the House will be meeting and participating in the 10th annual Caribbean Multi-national Business

Conference sponsored by the New York Caribbean News in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands where we will be enjoying the hospitality of Caribbean News publishers Karl and Faye Rodney and Delegate DONNA CHRISTIAN CHRISTENSEN. Over the last decade the conference has brought together elected officials, civic leaders, entrepreneurs, and executives of major corporations to explore opportunities for growth and expansion in the emerging markets and developing economies of the Caribbean. The conference has significantly contributed to the building of closer working relationships and personal ties between Caribbean leadership and the Members of Congress who have participated. As we approach this year's conference, I wish to recognize and pay tribute to an outstanding Caribbean leader, Dr. Denzil L. Douglas, the Prime Minister of St. Kitts-Nevis by placing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the text of a proclamation to be awarded at the conference:

A PROCLAMATION CELEBRATING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF DR. DENZIL L. DOUGLAS, PRIME MINISTER, ST. KITTS-NEVIS

Whereas, It is an established and honorable tradition for elected officials to recognize the outstanding contributions of those persons whose leadership and life's work have made a substantial difference to the lives of people everywhere, especially in their own countries; and

Whereas, Such committed leaders are like beacons that show the way to a better life for those persons at the lowest rungs of the economic and social ladder and are therefore an inspiration to people at home and abroad; and

Whereas, Dr. Denzil L. Douglas, a national and Prime Minister of the independent Federation of St. Kitts-Nevis, is surely one such leader and dedicated public servant; and

Whereas, Dr. Denzil L. Douglas, a physician, is being cited and honored at the annual Caribbean Multi-National Business Conference 2005 in St. Thomas in the U.S. Virgin Islands for his service to his native land, the wider Caribbean community and developing nations generally, serving as head of Government in St. Kitts-Nevis at a time when the United Nations placed his country on the list of the World's top 50 states where the quality of life is high; is the Caribbean Community, Caricom, lead Prime Minister on health issues, championing the fight against HIV/AIDS infection in the Caribbean; and

Whereas, The Prime Minister has led his country with distinction for the past 10 years while Demonstrating to the world that a small nation can be an international model of development, an example when it comes to adherence to the rule of law and parliamentary democracy; now, therefore be it

*Resolved*, That we salute and commend Dr. Denzil Douglas for his distinguished and unblemished record of service to humanity and for his leadership on the national and international stages, within Caricom and the countries which belong to the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States.

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125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HOLDING INSTITUTE

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 9, 2005*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 125th anniversary of the Holding In-

stitute. The Holding Institute is a training facility that helps young Hispanic women, children and families improve their ability to read, write and speak English. Since Miss Nannie Emory Holding, a Methodist missionary teacher from Kentucky, helped a small group of Laredo women organize a school for girls on the north bank of the Rio Grande back in the early 1880's, the name Holding has meant educational opportunity to the residents of Los Dos Laredos.

In 1987, Holding became a community learning center offering learning opportunities for adults, offering day and evening classroom instruction to women and men above 16 years of age who wanted to learn English as a second language, improve their Spanish, obtain their GED, gain work skills including computer literacy, or get ready for entry into college.

Today, Holding is recognized for future projects that will take learning at Holding to another level for the 21st Century.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have had this opportunity to recognize the Holding Institute, an invaluable learning center for many people in Laredo, for their 125 years of ministry and teaching.

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HONORING DAME BILLIE ANTOINETTE MILLER

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 9, 2005*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, this coming weekend, between November 10 and 13 I and more than 20 of our colleagues in the House will be meeting and participating in the 10th annual Caribbean Multi-national Business Conference sponsored by the New York Caribbean News in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands where we will be enjoying the hospitality of Caribbean News publishers Karl and Faye Rodney and Delegate DONNA CHRISTIAN CHRISTENSEN. Over the last decade the conference has brought together elected officials, civic leaders, entrepreneurs, and executives of major corporations to explore opportunities for growth and expansion in the emerging markets and developing economies of the Caribbean. The conference has significantly contributed to the building of closer working relationships and personal ties between Caribbean leadership and the Members of Congress who have participated. As we approach this year's conference, I wish to recognize and pay tribute to an outstanding Caribbean leader, Dame Billie Antoinette Miller by placing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the text of a proclamation to be awarded at the conference:

A PROCLAMATION CELEBRATING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF DAME BILLIE ANTOINETTE MILLER

Whereas, It is a long and honorable tradition for elected Officials to recognize the outstanding contributions of those individuals